

THE HONORABLE MARSHA J. PECHMAN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

SUSTAINABLE FIBER TECHNOLOGIES
LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

v.

DARBY KREITZ, an individual, ALLNORTH
CONSULTANTS LTD., a Canadian limited
company; ALLNORTH AMERICAS INC., a
Nevada corporation; RED LEAF FIBRE LTD.,
a Canadian limited company; and RED LEAF
PULP, LTD., a Canadian limited company,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:22-cv-00822-MJP

**STIPULATED MOTION FOR
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

**NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:
Wednesday, August 31, 2022**

The parties hereby stipulate to, and respectfully request, entry of this Stipulated Protective Order. This Stipulated Protective Order is based on the Western District of Washington's Model Stipulated Protective Order, with the addition of provisions regarding attorneys'-eyes-only treatment of certain confidential information. By adding attorneys'-eyes-only provisions, the parties have not expanded the scope of this Stipulated Protective Order beyond the scope of the Model Stipulated Protective Order, as the attorneys'-eyes-only provisions merely contain the parties' further agreement regarding how they will handle attorneys'-eyes-only material.

1 **1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS.**

2 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or
 3 private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby
 4 stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties
 5 acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket
 6 protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public
 7 disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential
 8 treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file
 9 confidential information under seal.

10 **2. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL.**

11 "Confidential" material shall include the following documents, information, and tangible
 12 things produced or otherwise exchanged: documents, information, and materials containing non-
 13 public technical, methodological, proprietary, marketing, strategic, or other trade secret
 14 information that, if disclosed, could put the producing party at a competitive disadvantage or is
 15 subject to a confidentiality obligation owed to another; documents, information, and materials
 16 containing non-public financial information that, if disclosed could put the producing party at a
 17 competitive disadvantage or is subject to a confidentiality obligation owed to another; or
 18 documents, information, and materials containing non-public customer and supplier information
 19 that, if disclosed, could put the producing party at a competitive disadvantage or is subject to a
 20 confidentiality obligation owed to another.

21 **3. "ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" MATERIAL.**

22 "ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" material contains information that the producing party
 23 believes is of such a nature and character that unlimited disclosure of such information to the
 24 receiving party will be harmful to the producing party or to its business or will provide the
 25 receiving party a competitive advantage over the producing party. As a result, "ATTORNEYS'
 26

1 EYES ONLY” material shall include confidential material that includes highly sensitive technical,
2 methodological, proprietary, and strategic information.

3 **4. SCOPE.**

4 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential or attorneys’ eyes
5 only material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential
6 or attorneys’ eyes only material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of
7 confidential or attorneys’ eyes only material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
8 presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential or attorneys’ eyes only
9 material.

10 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
11 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

12 **5. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL.**

13 5.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential or attorneys’ eyes only
14 material that is disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this
15 case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential or
16 attorneys’ eyes only material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
17 conditions described in this agreement. Confidential or attorneys’ eyes only material must be
18 stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that
19 access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

20 5.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered
21 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
22 confidential material only to:

23 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as employees
24 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

25 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
26 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties
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1 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so
2 designated;

3 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
4 litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

5 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

6 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
7 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service
8 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately
9 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

10 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
11 reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound"
12 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of
13 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must
14 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
15 under this agreement;

16 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
17 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

18 5.3 Disclosure of "ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" Information or Items. Unless
19 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party
20 may disclose any attorneys' eyes only material only to:

21 (a) the receiving party's outside counsel of record in this action as well as
22 employees of such outside counsel of record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the
23 information for this litigation;

24 (b) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
25 litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

26 (c) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

(d) copy or imaging services retained by counsel of record to assist in the duplication of attorneys' eyes only material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any attorneys' eyes only material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any attorneys' eyes only material;

(e) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal attorneys' eyes only material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

(f) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

5.4 Filing Protected Material. Before filing confidential or attorneys' eyes only material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

1 **6. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL.**

2 6.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party
3 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
4 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
5 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
6 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
7 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
8 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

9 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
10 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to
11 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses
12 and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

13 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
14 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
15 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

16 6.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
17 agreement (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 6.2(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
18 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must
19 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

20 (a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic documents and
21 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),
22 the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" or "ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY"
23 to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a
24 page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)
25 (*e.g.*, by making appropriate markings in the margins).
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(b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word “CONFIDENTIAL” or phrase “ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

6.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party’s right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

7. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS.

7.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party’s confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

1 7.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
 2 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential
 3 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration
 4 or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other
 5 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list
 6 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-
 7 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

8 7.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
 9 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local
 10 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
 11 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
 12 made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
 13 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain
 14 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

15 **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN**
 16 **OTHER LITIGATION.**

17 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
 18 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” or
 19 “ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” that party must:

- 20 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
 21 subpoena or court order;
- 22 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
 23 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is
 24 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and
- 25 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by
 26 the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.
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1 **9. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL.**

2 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential
3 or attorneys' eyes only material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
4 agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the
5 unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected
6 material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the
7 terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the "Acknowledgment
8 and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9 **10. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE**
10 **PROTECTED MATERIAL.**

11 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
12 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
13 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision
14 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or
15 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the
16 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

17 **11. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS.**

18 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
19 party must return all confidential or attorneys' eyes only material to the producing party, including
20 all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate
21 methods of destruction.

22 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
23 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
24 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work
25 product, even if such materials contain confidential material.
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The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD on this 31st day of August, 2022.

BUCHALTER

s/ Bradley P. Thoreson

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s/ Jeffrey R. Kaatz

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PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other proceeding in any other court, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

DATED: September 2, 2022



The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman
United States Senior District Judge

EXHIBIT A**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of
 perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was
 issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington in the case of
 Sustainable Fiber Technologies LLC v. Darby Kreitz, et al., Case No. 2:22-cv-00822 (MJP). I
 agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I
 understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and
 punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner
 any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity
 except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
 Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
 Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____